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basic imagery interpretation report

Balaklava Missile Test Center (S)

MISSILE RANGES: NAVAL LAUNCHED FACILITIES

USSR

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RCA-17/0002/79
SEPTEMBER 1979
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INSTALLATION OR ACTIVITY NAME					COUNTRY
Balaklava Missile Test Center					UR
UTM COORDINATES	GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES	CATEGORY	BE NO	COMREX NO	NETE NO
NA	44-30-14N 033-31-22E				
MAP REFERENCE					
SAC, USATC, Series 200, Sheet 0250-25, scale 1:200,000					
LATEST IMAGERY USED			NEGATION DATE if required		
			NA		

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ABSTRACT

1. (TSR) This report describes activity at the Balaklava Missile Test Center, USSR, from May 1978 through May 1979 and updates NPIC report [REDACTED]

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2. (TSR) During the reporting period the Golf V ballistic missile submarine arrived at the Balaklava Submarine Base and Ship Repair Yard [REDACTED]; the Soviets continued to actively use the 29- by 15-meter popup barge, platform 8, in a popup test program; and work was begun on either dismantlement or modification of the twin-tube barge, platform 5. Other activity included the addition of electronics equipment to instrumentation sites 1 and 2 and new construction at the missile handling and base support areas.

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3. (U) This report contains a location map and three annotated photographs.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

4. (TSR) The Balaklava Missile Test Center (MTC; Figures 1 and 2) consists of several areas—a missile storage area; a liquid propellant service area; Balaklava Coastal Defense Test Site Cruise Missile (CM) Tactical Short Range (TSR; [REDACTED]); a missile handling area; a base support area; instrumentation sites 1, 2, and 3; a submerged launch test facility (operations test area); and the popup barge mooring positions at the Balaklava Submarine Base and Ship Repair Yard.¹

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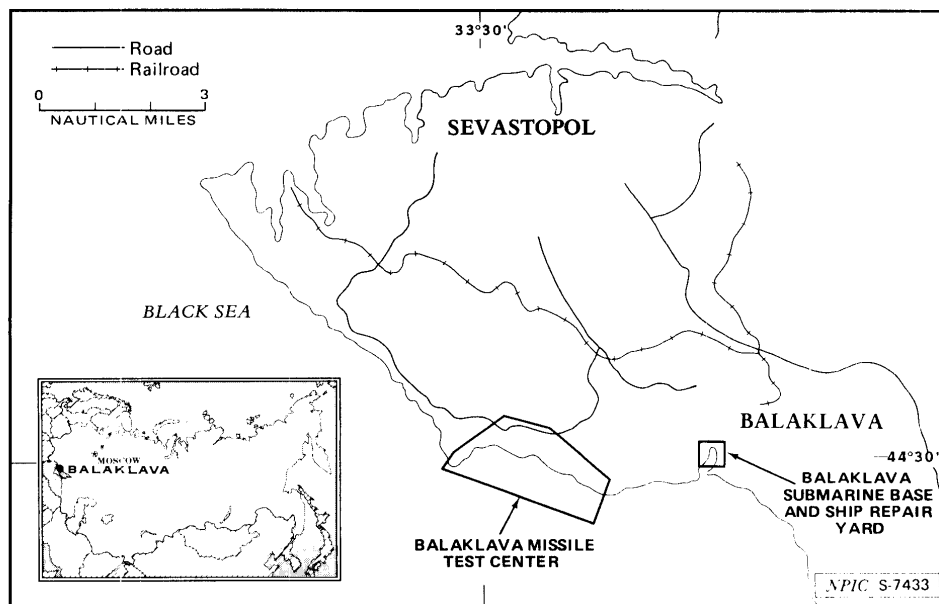


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF BALAKLAVA MTC, USSR

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5. (TSR) The Golf V ballistic missile submarine (SSB; Figure 3), formerly designated the 402S, left Severodvinsk Shipyard 402 () in August 1978 and arrived at the Balaklava submarine base in October 1978. The Golf V, believed to be the flight test platform for the new submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), was probably brought to Balaklava to supplement stationary popup testing . The 29- by 15-meter popup barge, platform 8, is used to conduct stationary popup testing while the Golf V is apparently used to test the effects of underwater motion on missile ejection. Since its arrival, the submarine has usually been berthed at reporting position 18, along the quay and south of platform 8; however, its mooring position was changed on several occasions, indicating active involvement in testing. (In May 1979 the submarine was seen in the Black Sea just off the coast of the Balaklava MTC.) In November 1978 two sections of a work platform were seen on the quay beside the submarine. They were approximately () long and about () in diameter. These dimensions are comparable to the dimensions of other pieces of missile-related hardware associated with the new SLBM.^{2,3} The mooring position of platform 8 was also changed several times during the past year, suggesting that it too was being

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actively used for popup testing. In August 1978 a floating crane (YD) was positioned adjacent to platform 8. One of the missile tube doors on the barge was open, exposing a [] (approximately) missile tube cover (Figure 4).

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6. (TSR) Activity involving the old twin-tube SLBM popup barge, platform 5, has also been observed. Platform 5 was used in the popup test program for the SS-NX-17 and possibly for the SS-N-18 between 1973 and 1975.⁴ Since August 1978, the barge has changed considerably. As of [] a tube, approximately [] in diameter, was all that still remained in the area of the former twin-tube configuration of the barge (Figure 3). It cannot be determined whether the barge is being modified or dismantled. The Soviets usually do not dismantle the barges at Balaklava; however, they have modified them for other test programs.⁵

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Instrumentation Sites

7. (TSR) In late 1977 a pedestal-mounted twin-element helix antenna was added to instrumentation site 1, and three van-mounted possible twin-element helix antennas and a van-mounted SHIP WHEEL radar were added to instrumentation site 2. Additional security fences were constructed around instrumentation site 2, and ground scarring was observed extending from the control building toward the beach area. No significant activity was observed at instrumentation site 3.

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Construction Activity

8. (TSR) During November 1978, the training area within the base support area was resurfaced and several items in the static display were removed. In May 1979 construction was started on a new vehicle shed in the vehicle park. In the missile handling area, a trench was observed between the handling area and a nearby security building. Three possible electronics vans were observed near the security building in November 1978; by April 1979 they had been removed.

REFERENCES**IMAGERY**

(TSR) All interpretable KEYHOLE imagery acquired from [] 25X1
[] as well as selected earlier satellite imagery, was used in the preparation of this report. 25X1

MAPS OR CHARTS

SAC, US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0250-25, scale 1:200,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

DOCUMENTS

1. NPIC, [] RCA-17/0002/77, *Balaklava Missile Test Center January 1976-May 1977*, Jul 77 (TOP SECRET) [] 25X1
[] 25X1
2. NPIC, [] RCA-17/0005/78, *Balaklava Missile Test Center May 1977-May 1978 (S)*, Sep 78 (TOP SECRET) [] 25X1
[] 25X1
3. NPIC, [] SR-007/78, *Estimated Dimensions of New Soviet SLBM (TSR)*, Jan 78 (TOP SECRET) [] 25X1
[] 25X1
4. NPIC, [] SR-045/78, *Popup Test Activity at Balaklava Missile Test Center, USSR (TSR)*, Jun 78 (TOP SECRET) [] 25X1
[] 25X1
5. NPIC, [] PIR-034/79, *Indications of a Probable New or Modified Liquid-Propellant SLBM Under Development in the USSR (TSR)*, Apr 79 (TOP SECRET) [] 25X1
[] 25X1

*Extracted material is TOP SECRET RUFF only.

RELATED DOCUMENT

DIA, NDA-06/5008/78, *National Basic Reference Graphic, USSR, Balaklava Submarine Base and Ship Repair Yard*, 27 Nov 78 (SECRET) [] 25X1

REQUIREMENT

COMIREX R01
Project 290002DR

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] Soviet 25X1
Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [] 25X1

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